



UNITED STATES SENATOR • NEBRASKA

CHUCK HAGEL

P R E S S R E L E A S E



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Contact: Joy Ditto
202-224-4224

Statement by Senator Chuck Hagel on the Army's 225th Birthday

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) congratulated the United States Army on its 225th birthday in a speech on the Senate floor today. Following is a transcript of Hagel's statement:

"Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise today to wish the United States Army 'happy birthday.' It was 225 years ago today, in 1775, that the Continental Army of the United States was formed. That Continental Army of the United States has had a rich, important impact on our country. Millions of men and women over the last 225 years have served in the senior branch of service of our American military forces, the United States Army.

The Army is interwoven into the culture of America. And those of us who have had the great privilege of serving this country in the United States Army understand that. It may have been a little difficult during basic training for some of us, but we progressed through basic training and became real Army men and women – formed and shaped and molded from raw recruits into something that America could be proud of and we could be proud of ourselves. That touch, that impact, that molding, that shape has defined our country, and has defined our culture. It has, in fact, defined the world. The United States Army has had an incredible effect on our country and the world for the better. Duty, honor, country. Duty, honor, country – that's the motto of the United States Army.

It is America. It is who we are. And not one generation of Americans who have served in the United States Army have gone untouched by not only what America is about and the Army is about, but it is a shaping and molding that has touched personal lives in ways that are hard to explain. Just as the Army has touched our national life and made the world more secure, more prosperous and a better world for all mankind. So on this 225th birthday of the United States Army, as an old infantryman who served in the United States Army, I say 'happy birthday' to the veterans of this country. We recognize and acknowledge and pay tribute to those generations who have – and pay tribute to those generations who have served before some of us had the opportunity to serve and come along and be part of a newer Army.

It is the Army that has laid the foundation for our services today and for a strong America. And to that, we say, again, 'happy birthday' and 'thank you.' In the great, rich tradition of the United States Army, Mr. President, we say, 'hoo-a.'"

Mr. President, I yield the floor.”

– 30 –